9: Yamasaki--221[3] N-5 (1896-1897) 1900 Formosans
116, 114, 122

With the transfer of the island to Japan, it entered a new age, not only politically, but also with regard to its scientific investigation. This begins in 1896-97 with an expedition that was organized by the University of Tokyo. Among others, the Professor of Geology, Dr. B. Kotō, took part, and the writer of these lines had the good fortune to accompany him as his assistant.

26: Honda--469 [2] N-3 (1896) 1897 Formosans-1-2
116, 122, 137

... I felt an urge to explore the hitherto unknown mountainous part of the island of Formosa. In the fall of last year the Imperial Government finally asked me to make a study of the forestry of that region. I departed at the beginning of October, 1896, and after seven days I landed in Kelung, the northernmost port of the island; we had briefly stopped at the Liukiu Islands in the course of our voyage. Together with four companions I set out on my march through the western slopes of the almost central mountain chain; we were headed south. Beautiful evergreen woods - ficus and palm trees, camphor trees, bamboos, fig trees, pineapple, banana trees and cinnamon trees - covered the western spurs of the mountains where several Chinese villages are still found. Towards the east, however, in the direction of the mountain ridge the population is exclusively native. As the elevation increases, the vegetation changes. The tropical appearance is lost and Crypto-meriae, pine-trees, and firs are reminiscent of the temperate zone. Fortunately the Chinese have not yet deeply penetrated into the mountain regions, for they certainly do not know any such thing as consideration of the forest. Wherever they go war is made on the forest with fire. The Chinese inhabit bare plains where nothing but bamboo groves are visible; they are planted close to the dwellings. Incalculable damage has already been done by barbaric devastation. After a journey of ten days we arrived in Ling-ki-ho, a place inhabited by Chinese where I encountered the last Japanese guards. From here on to Mt. Morrison there are no Chinese settlements. I

was unable to find horses anywhere although I needed them badly, nor were mules or donkeys available.

The actual ascent of Mount Morrison started from the village of Ling-ki-ho. It is surrounded by bare hills between which spread fields of rice and sweet potatoes. The little town has a population of about a thousand who initially showed themselves very hostile towards the Japanese; the ranks of the rebels included people engaged in the camphor trade. We had an extremely hard time finding porters in Ling-ki-ho and were completely unsuccessful in our search for guides. We had finally managed to engage twenty men who, when they learnt of our destination, promptly deserted us to the last man for fear of the aborigines, among whom individuals can distinguish themselves by capturing the heads of several Chinese. A youth of their group can think of marriage only after he has proved his courage by such an achievement. Once more twenty porters were hired; they were locked up overnight, examined by the doctor who eliminated four of them, and the next morning a load of about 24 kilograms was tied on the back of each one of them in the presence of armed soldiers, so that there was no opportunity for desertion. Our group included two officers with twenty-five men and their equipment and seven Japanese including a newspaper reporter, an interpreter, a doctor, geologist, and a topographer. I was not only supposed to be the leader of the expedition but was also entrusted with the task of studying the forest conditions in detail and of photographing everything of interest. Naturally we were well equipped with all kinds of scientific

instruments and tools for clearing our way through the thicket, for building huts against the rain, etc.